

HANLEY HOUSE HERALD



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A Newsletter for Friends of the Historic Martin Franklin Hanley House

In The Garden: Hands-On History Lessons Williamsburg, VA

by Anne Raver

The following article first appeared in the New York Times on March 25, 2009

The quince hedge was already covered with salmon-pink flowers the day Lawrence Griffith, the curator of plants at Colonial Williamsburg, planted 19 varieties of heirloom flowers from seed.

Not indoors in pots, mind you, something the colonists rarely did. Mr. Griffith sprinkled these seeds over meticulously prepared soil, raked them in a bit and tamped them down with the back of the rake.

It was mid-March and still sweater weather, but the air was sweet and the soil workable. I had driven down from Maryland to the historic garden to get some pointers on growing flowers the way my ancestors did. Mr. Griffith's recent book, "Flowers and Herbs of Early America" (Yale University Press, 2008), had whetted my appetite with its stories of historic plants. Some hark back to Theophrastus, the ancient Greek botanist who cataloged 500 in his "Enquiry into Plants." Others are Virginia natives cataloged in the 17th century by the English explorer John Banister, who, Mr. Griffith writes, was "accidentally shot while botanizing on the Roanoke River."



Above left are Larkspurs which bud in May and June. Prolific self-seeders, they grow up to five feet tall. Above right are Corn Poppies which flower from early to mid-June, can be seeded in midwinter, scattered over snow. Images credited to Barbara Temple Lombard.

Mr. Griffith's knowledge is both scholarly and as practical as that of any gardener who has spent hours weeding on his hands and knees. He reminded me that flowers, like vegetables, are particular about when they germinate: just as spinach, peas and onions need to be planted now, larkspur, corn poppies, wallflowers and many other flower seeds do best if planted early.

Hormium sage, another self-seeding annual to plant early, has colorful bracts, from mauve and rosy-pink to purple, and a long history. "The Greeks apparently used it as a cereal grain," Mr. Griffith said, noting that it also shows up on a 1761 inventory of a farm from a Moravian community in North Carolina, which used the seed in their bread.

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At left is the Lewis House in Colonial Williamsburg, VA. The beds are seeded with heirlooms. Image credited to Stephanie Oberlander.



From the Desk of Sarah Umlauf

Community Resource Coordinator for the City of Clayton



The City of Clayton is Awarded a Grant to Restore and Digitize the Historic Hanley House Day Book

Martin Franklin Hanley (1814-1879) arrived in St. Louis County around 1834 when he was just 20 years old. Hanley came to Missouri from his native Virginia by way of Kentucky. The young blacksmith purchased land from a farmer named James Walton (1784-1851) and built a thriving business producing ploughs and farm implements. Much of Martin F. Hanley's early years in St. Louis County is documented in his Day Book which today is owned by the City of Clayton. The entries in the Day Book date from 1836 to approximately 1861. The book is an important record documenting mid-19th century life in the area known as Central Township in St. Louis County. Due to its deteriorated condition, the Day Book has been stored in an archival box out of view from the public and only limited access by trained City staff is permitted. Aware of its importance to the early history of the region, the City of Clayton sought funds to conserve the book and make it available to the community. In late 2010, the City of Clayton was pleased to learn that it had received a grant to conserve and digitize the Martin F. Hanley Day Book through the Missouri Historical Records Grant Program.

In his early years in St. Louis County, the Day Book indicated that Martin F. Hanley not only sold plows and metal wares but he also established a wood shop as well as a grocery store and a tavern. On page 52 of the Day Book, Hanley recorded: "William Link commenced in grocery Thursday at 12 o'clock March 16, 1848 for one year at \$110.00 for a year." On page 60 he noted "Jack Brion commenced work in wood shop July 13th, 1848 at \$14.00 per month." Hanley also included numerous references to bar bills and purchases of whiskey, hard vinegar and bitters. The entries serve as evidence for his various business ventures. Through his endeavors, Martin serviced many of the residents located in the area known as Central Township. Listed

Pictured at right, shown closed, and below, open to pages 64 and 65, is the Hanley House Day Book prior to its restoration.



among his customers were General Ashley, Mr. Chouteau, Ralph Clayton, William Clayton, Mr. Papin, Frederick L. Billon, the Sappingtons, James Bissel, and Barton Bates just to name a few.

By 1849, an entry in the Day Book recorded "Feb. 5, 1849, to John S. Bowlin to Blacksmith Shop rent". We see that Martin at that time had begun to turn away from his blacksmithing operation. His shift away from the heat of the forge actually began a little more than a year earlier when, in 1847, Martin Hanley purchased 100.6 acres of land located roughly 1 mile south of his existing home, forge and other business operations. Martin clearly intended to develop his new property as evident in a Day Book entry in 1851 that noted Martin had paid 2 men to grub some acres. The process of removing rocks, roots, and other debris from the land continued on and off for about 3 years. Martin also recorded that on "October 27, 1852, Commenced the Road.

(continued on page 6)

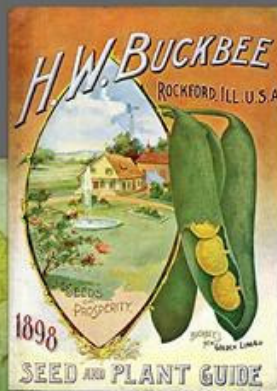
Hanley House Heirloom Gardening Workshop

Saturday, March 19

11:00 AM

\$10

To Register, call 314-290-8500
and refer to course #11366



We will begin planting
herbs for the Hanley House
Herb Garden from seed.

Take home a packet of heirloom
seeds to start in your own garden!

(continued from page 1)

Mr. Griffith's book is packed with such details, but I was here to learn his planting secrets.



Above left is pictured Hormium Sage which sports colorful leaf bracts in June. If cut back, it reblooms in midsummer. Above right are Calendulas, or pot marigolds, like many early bloomers, need sufficient periods of cold for their seeds to germinate. They are accents in not only the garden but also the kitchen; high in vitamin C, they can be used in soups and salads. Images credited to Barbara Temple Lombard.

"Soil preparation is number one," he said. "I go down about 16 inches, turn it over really well and add 6 inches of compost." The overall plan for this garden, behind the reconstructed 18th-century Lewis House, is basically three big square beds, separated by wide grassy paths, in a 21-by-57-foot rectangle. Each bed is divided into 19 plots, about two feet square.

"I'm seeding one pack per plot," Mr. Griffith said, pointing to his plan, which showed larkspur, bishop's weed, bachelor's buttons and wallflowers in four plots in the center of the bed. The remaining 14 plots formed a wide border surrounding the grassy path around the central bed. The arrangement is not only pleasing in its

geometry, but solves the mystery of who's who in the flower beds.

"If the same seedlings appear in all the beds, you know it's a weed," Mr. Griffith said. "If it's distinct, you know it's a flower."

After planting the seeds and tamping them down, Mr. Griffith set up an oscillating sprinkler to release a gentle mist. Don't let the seedlings dry out, he reminded me.

It's also important to thin them — seedlings need different amounts of space, depending on the species — and to keep the beds well weeded.

"It is tedious," Mr. Griffith admitted.

The only way he has done the job in the past, he said, is to work with a talkative volunteer.

"She helped me three hours a week, and we just gossiped and weeded."



Lawrence Griffith seeds one packet per plot to make it easy to identify the flowers. Image credited to Stephanie Oberlander.



Thank you, volunteers, for helping our programs to succeed in 2010!



In 2010 we...
made S'mores, made candles, made
tea and scones, made music, made
memories and of course, we made
history come alive! Thank you!!

Do you have a love for history and want to share that enthusiasm with others? Volunteer for the Hanley House and help garden, lead tours and keep history alive! Contact Sarah Umlauf for more information: (314) 226-9893 or sumlauf@ci.clayton.mo.us. Training sessions for 2011 volunteers are available.

See Page 7 for a list of special programs and events for 2011.





Guess the Hanley House



Artifact

Below you will find 10 close-up images of artifacts that you would find in the Hanley House. Try to guess what they may be and how they were used by the Hanley family. Good luck!

Answers on page 7.

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



8.



6.



7.



9.



10.





Pictured at right is the Historic Hanley House in Hanley Park, 2010. Below we see Martin F. Hanley and his wife, Cyrene C. Hanley. Images are taken from the Historic Hanley House Collection.



(continued from page 2)

Over the next year, Hanley, with the help of paid laborers, constructed the Hanley Road. The men worked in the rock quarry, used "powder and fuzes" to clear the road, and hauled loads of rock and sand. For their heavy labor, Hanley typically paid his employees \$.50 to \$1.00 a day. Following close to a year of construction, Hanley lists the total costs associated with the road at \$129.32. The greatest expense during the construction of the Hanley Road was the bridge that crossed the River Des Peres. In addition to Hanley's day laborers and the cost for materials such as lime and sand, Hanley required the work of specialists. On June 17, 1853, Hanley paid \$19.50 to "masons for 3 buttments." Although the masons were the largest daily expense that Hanley incurred during construction, his reliance on skilled labor demonstrated the care that Hanley took in building his road.

During the construction of the Hanley Road, Martin Franklin continued to work to develop his new land. From November 12, 1852 to February 15, 1853, Hanley "hawled" cord wood from Mr. Clayton. In his Day Book notations, Hanley wrote that he "got 110 post." Hanley also kept a running tab of the cost of the rails that he purchased from Ralph Clayton over the four-month period. Considering the dates of his purchases and the notations indicating that he purchased posts and rails, it is likely that M.F. Hanley was procuring the materials needed to fence his new property on the Hanley Road.

The following year, Hanley once again turned his attention to his property on the Hanley Road. From October to December 1854, Hanley employed a well digger. The work required 2 loads of sand and 3 loads of brick and totaled \$12.60. With his well in place, his fence erected and the Hanley Road completed, M.F. Hanley recorded in his Day Book that on May 16, 1855, at "12 o'clock Billy commenced work digging cellar." Beginning with the cellar, the construction of the Greek revival farmstead on Hanley's property served as an homage to the Virginia plantations that he left behind as a youth.

Although Martin F. Hanley originally ventured to St. Louis as a blacksmith, Hanley's desire to become a farmer himself took over. In St. Louis County, Martin's professional and personal ventures thrived. Through his successful marriage to Cyrene Clemens Walton (1819-1894), the daughter of his neighbor James Walton, Hanley also found great success in his family life. Martin and Cyrene had 11 children. It is the recollection of one of Martin's children that poignantly detailed the joys of farming that Martin surely imparted. Jim Hanley recalled in a letter to his mother, Cyrene, dated July 25th, 1885, "Julia got a letter from Harry Kelsey yesterday about harvesting which made me think of old times when I hustled through the hay regardless of bumblebees or hornets." The ideal life of a Virginia gentleman farmer was surely a life that Martin desired.

The Historic Hanley House is pleased that St. Louis Paper Conservator, Richard Baker, is performing the restoration and digitization of the Day Book through the Missouri Historical Records Grant Program. Once the project is complete, an electronic version of the Day Book will be available on the museum's website: www.HanleyHouse.org. The Day Book will be on display at the Historic Hanley House in May, 2011. The museum is open to the public from April through October on Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm and by appointment at all other times. Please contact Sarah Umlauf for more information: (314) 226-9893 or sumlauf@ci.clayton.mo.us.



Mark your 2011 calendars!



For more information about these programs, please visit www.HanleyHouse.org or contact Sarah Umlauf at (314) 226-9893 or sumlauf@ci.clayton.mo.us. If registration is required, please call (314) 290-8500 to register over the phone or visit www.centerofclayton.com and click on the "Register for Activities" button.

- Saturday, March 19, 2011. 11:00 am. Heirloom Gardening Workshop. \$10. Registration is required.
- Sunday, March 20, 2011. 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The Civil War Comes to the Hanley House. Civil War re-enactors will be in Hanley Park to help promote the commemoration activities marking the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Open to the public.
- Saturday, April 30, 2011. 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Hanley House Herb Sale. Herbs sold at a cost of \$4 each. Open to the public.
- Saturdays and Sundays in May, 2011. 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Civil War Tour of the Hanley House. During regular operating hours in May, a costumed interpreter will share the Civil War experience of the Hanley family with visitors. View original Civil War-era family letters from the collection. Also on view in May will be the newly restored Hanley House Day Book. Regular admission fees apply. Open to the public.
- Monday, June 6 to Friday, June 10, 2011. 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. At Home With the Hanleys Summer Camp for Kids. Explore the pioneering life of the Hanley family with games, crafts, songs and history. Open to children ages 6-12. \$130 for residents and \$150 for non-residents. Registration is required.
- Saturday, June 11, 2011. 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Hanley House Ice Cream Social. Ice Cream sold at a cost of \$5 each. Open to the public.
- Saturday, July 23, 2011. 11:00 am. Hanley House Herb Tour. This special tour of the Historic Hanley House will explore the importance of herbs and other plant life in the 19th century home. Costumed interpreters will lead this tour. Bring your gardening shears and you will be invited to take clippings from the Hanley House Herb Garden. Cost is \$5 for residents and \$7 for non-residents. Registration is required.
- Thursdays July 21 & 28, August 4 & 11, 2011. 10:00 am. Story time at the Hanley House. Bring your children to the Historic Hanley House on Thursday mornings for a special story time. An historic interpreter will share stories both new and old. Children will also delight in learning an historic craft and the final story time will feature a special tea for children. Cost is \$10 for residents and \$12 for non-residents.. Registration is required.
- Friday, September 23, 2011. 7:00 pm. Full Moon Flashlight Tour. Bring your flashlights for this unique tour of the Hanley House and enjoy S'mores outside by the fire after the tour. Cost is \$5 for residents and \$7 for non-residents. Registration is required.
- Saturday, October 22, 2011. 4:00 pm. Haunted Hanley House. A special tour for children with a few tricks followed by some special treats. \$5 for residents and \$7 for non-residents. Registration is required.
- Thursday, December 15, 2011. Hanley House Candlelight Tour. 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. \$12 for residents and \$15 for non-residents. Registration is required.

*Images 7 & 8 courtesy of Stephanie Ruse. Images 4, 5 & 9 courtesy of Jessica Ruse.



Answers from page 5: Pictured below from left to right: 1. Water Bucket. 2. Blue & White Coverlet. 3. Sweet Potato musical instrument. 4. Crazy Quilt. 5. Trivet. 6. Whale Oil Lamp. 7. Master Bed. 8. Railing from the Front Porch. 9. Singer Sewing Machine. 10. Chamber Pot.



Historic Martin Franklin Hanley House
City of Clayton
Parks and Recreation
50 Gay Ave.
Clayton, MO 63105
www.HanleyHouse.org

